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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 23 January 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am enclosing a press statement issued on 22 January 2000 by the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan concerning the attack by Indian forces, at 0330 hours on 22 January 2000, against a Pakistani post in the Chamb area on the Pakistan side of the line of control (see annex).

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 10 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inam-ul HAQUE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement of the Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan issued on 22 January 2000

This morning, 22 January, at 0330 hours, Indian forces crossed the line of control in the Iftikharabad subsector in the Chamb area and launched a company-strength attack on a small and long existing Pakistani post between the two channels of the Tawi river. This act of flagrant aggression was preceded by intense Indian mortar fire, which damaged the bunkers of the Pakistani post.

Our troops fought gallantly in self-defence and succeeded in repelling the Indian attack, inflicting casualties on the invading Indian force. In doing their duty, two Pakistani soldiers laid down their lives. In addition to these martyrs, five soldiers are missing.

The Indian attack this morning is part of a recurring pattern of intensification of firing across the line of control aimed at building up the tensions between the two countries. The latest reports indicate that the Indian firing continues and that our forces are taking appropriate action to defend and stabilize the situation.

The Government of Pakistan will be lodging a protest with the Government of India calling upon it to desist from crossing the line of control. It will also bring this matter to the attention of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. Adhering to its policy of peace, Pakistan will continue to exercise restraint. No doubt the Pakistan Armed Forces will exercise their right of self-defence with their well-known sense of commitment and determination.

We call upon India to exhibit responsibility and to refrain from aggressive action, which could result in grave consequences. It is apparent that India is resorting to such aggressive acts out of frustration arising from India's failure to suppress the indigenous freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people.

We call upon the world community to restrain India from escalating tensions in the region.